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Dear Friends,

When I started The Bridge Academy Charter School thirteen years ago, I envisioned my self working hard in a classroom for the Bridgeport children I dearly love. I did not envision the work I would have to do with you politicking for these children. For each of 13 years I have had to leave Bridgeport and come to the legislature and ask you to champion The Bridge Academy's efforts to try and improve the resources given to charter school children.

As my schools' champion for thirteen years you have heard again and again that the current funding system is unfair. As a result you have kept us surviving by increasing the number of charter school students and our per-pupil income.

As my schools' champion for thirteen years you have heard again and again that The Bridge Academy is doing a great job with one hand tied behind its' back. You have always responded with help. You have listened carefully to the fact that our test scores are higher and that 100% of our Bridgeport students graduate with a college acceptance.

As my schools' champion for thirteen years you have heard again and again that Connecticut charters spend their precious funding wisely. We waste nothing! As a result you have supported us even in tough economic times.

As my schools' champion for thirteen years you have heard again and again that we are in extremely high demand and that we daily have parents calling and trying to gain admission for their children. As a result you have continued to expand school choice where parents need it most. The Bridge Academy has a waitlist of hundreds of students. I have had parents beg and plead for the opportunity to enter my school.

I am sure you are as tired of being my champion year in and year out, but we need your help one more time. I believe your support of H.B. 5493 will put the Charter Schools on such a firm footing that we can stand on our own for many, many years.

If you let "the money follow the child" then I will finally feel like my school is being equitably treated.

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Dutton
Director, Bridge Academy

The Bridge Academy Charter School is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons and does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation or any other basis provided by Connecticut State and/or Federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries regarding The Bridge Academy's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the school administration at The Bridge Academy, 401 Kossuth St., Bridgeport, CT 06608, (203)-336-9999.